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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

SLITERIS, JOSELYNN Y

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3616

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/534,220	Applicant(s) BERTSSON ET AL.	
	Examiner JOSELYNN Y. SLITERIS	Art Unit 3616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 May 2005 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the air-bag being formed from one piece woven fabric, and the seams being formed integrally with the air-bag in claim 4; parts of the air-bag extending through apertures formed in the sleeve such that the parts protrude from the sleeve in claim 10; and locating parts of the air-bag to extend through apertures in the sleeve such that the parts protrude from the sleeve in claim 15 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner,

the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1-11, 14, and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: in claim 1 line 13, "element" should be --elements--. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

5. In claim 1 line 17, the use of "its" is improper. Therefore, claim 1 is rendered indefinite.

6. Claim 10 is dependent on itself. Therefore, claim 10 is rendered indefinite. However, for examination purposes, the examiner is interpreting claim 10 to be dependent on claim 9.

7. In claim 12, the phrase "of the type" renders the claim(s) indefinite because the claim(s) include(s) elements not actually disclosed (those encompassed by "of the type"), thereby rendering the scope of the claim(s) unascertainable. See MPEP § 2173.05.

8. In claim 12 line 17, the use of "its" is improper. Therefore, claim 12 is rendered indefinite.

9. Claim 14, a method claim, is dependent on claim 1, an apparatus claim. Therefore, claim 14 is rendered indefinite. However, for examination purposes, the examiner is interpreting claim 14 to be dependent on claim 12.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

10. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

11. Claims 1-3, 5-8, 11-13, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Hoeft et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0158450 A1).

12. Regarding claims 1-3, 5-8, and 11, Hoeft discloses an inflatable curtain 10 as in the present invention comprising the inflatable curtain 10 formed from at least two super-imposed layers of fabric (paragraph [0032]) and having an upper attachment edge 50 provided with a plurality of mounting elements 54 for mounting the inflatable curtain in the interior of the vehicle for deployment beside an interior surface of the vehicle cabin, with one of the fabric layers being an inboard layer 46, and the other of the fabric layers being an outboard layer 48, the inflatable curtain also having a lower deployable edge 52 spaced from the upper attachment edge, a gas-flow passage 56 extending along the upper attachment edge, and between the upper attachment edge

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and the lower deployable edge an inflatable region which is divided into a plurality of cells 65 by a plurality of partitions 63 extending substantially transversely relative to the axis of the gas-flow passage 56, the cells communicating with the gas-flow passage, at least one of the mounting element being positioned intermediate an adjacent pair of the partitions (Fig. 3), the lower deployable edge of the inflatable curtain being movable from a stowed position to a deployed position by inflation of the inflatable region of the inflatable curtain, the inflatable curtain being at least partially rolled-up in the stowed position to form a roll 88 with its lower deployable edge within the roll, with the inboard layer of fabric forming the exterior of the roll (Fig. 4a);

wherein the partitions are seams;

wherein the seams are formed by stitching through the inboard layer and the outboard layer (paragraph [0032]);

wherein the seams are formed by adhesion (paragraph [0032]);

wherein each of the mounting elements are each located substantially centrally of a respective adjacent pair of the partitions (Fig. 3);

wherein a portion of the outboard layer of the inflatable curtain extends from the upper attachment edge and then turns to join the roll 88 (Fig. 4a);

wherein straps 66, 74 extend from spaced-apart points on the air-bag, each of the straps having a free end 70, 78 adapted to be secured to a respective anchoring point formed on the interior of the vehicle cabin;

wherein the air-bag is connected to a gas generator 26.

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13. Regarding claims 12, 13, and 16, as best understood, Hoeft discloses a method of preparing an air-bag as in the present invention, the air-bag of the type having an inflatable curtain 10 formed from at least two super-imposed layers (paragraph [0032]) and having an upper attachment edge 50 provided with a plurality of mounting elements 54 for mounting the inflatable curtain in the vehicle cabin, with one of the layers being an inboard layer 46, and the other of the layers being an outboard layer 48, the inflatable curtain also having a lower deployable edge 52 spaced from the upper attachment edge, a gas-flow passage 56 extending along the upper attachment edge, and between the upper attachment edge and the lower deployable edge an inflatable region which is divided into a plurality of cells 65 by a plurality of partitions 63 extending substantially transversely relative to the axis of the gas-flow passage, the cells communicating with the gas-flow passage, at least one of the mounting elements being positioned intermediate an adjacent pair of partitions (Fig. 3), the lower deployable edge of the inflatable curtain being movable from a stowed position to a deployed position by inflation of the inflatable region of the inflatable curtain, the method comprising the steps of rolling 88 at least part of the inflatable curtain with its lower deployable edge within the roll, with the inboard layer forming the exterior of the roll (Fig. 4a);

wherein the air-bag is folded such that a portion of the outboard layer of the inflatable curtain extends from the upper attachment edge and then turns to join the roll (Fig. 4a);

further comprising the step of connecting the air-bag to a gas generator 26.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

14. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

15. Claims 4, 9, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoeft et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0158450 A1) in view of Li et al. (U.S. Patent 6,429,155 B2).

16. Regarding claim 4, Hoeft discloses the claimed invention except for the air-bag being formed from one piece of woven fabric, and the seams being formed integrally with the air-bag. Li discloses that it is known in the art to provide an air-bag 10, 126 formed from one piece of woven fabric, and the seams formed integrally with the air-bag (Figs. 1, 4, 5). It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the air-bag of Hoeft according to the teachings of Li, in order to form the airbag using an alternative technique old and well known in the art. Applicant also admits in paragraph [0029] of the specification that this technique is "familiar to those skilled in the art".

17. Regarding claims 9 and 14, Hoeft discloses the claimed invention except for the airbag being enclosed in a sleeve and the step of encasing the air-bag in a sleeve. Li discloses that it is known in the art to provide an airbag 126 enclosed in a sleeve 122 and the step of encasing an air-bag 126 in a sleeve 122. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the

airbag of Hoeft with the sleeve of Li, in order to protect the air-bag during transportation and assembly as well as to facilitate assembly.

18. Claims 9, 10, 14, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoeft et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0158450 A1) in view of Saita et al. (U.S. Patent 6,293,581 B1).

19. Regarding claims 9, 10, 14, and 15, Hoeft discloses the claimed invention except for the airbag being enclosed in a sleeve, parts of the air-bag extending through apertures formed in the sleeve such that the parts protrude from the sleeve, the step of encasing the air-bag in a sleeve, and the step of locating parts of the air-bag to extend through apertures formed in the sleeve such that the parts protrude from the sleeve. Saita discloses that it is known in the art to provide an airbag 21 (Fig. 9) enclosed in a sleeve 58, parts of the air-bag 21b, 21c, 21d, 21e, 21f extending through apertures 58₂ formed in the sleeve 58 such that the parts protrude from the sleeve, the step of encasing the air-bag 21 in a sleeve 58, and the step of locating parts of the air-bag 21b, 21c, 21d, 21e, 21f to extend through apertures 58₂ formed in the sleeve 58 such that the parts protrude from the sleeve. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the air-bag and method of Hoeft with the sleeve of Saita, in order to protect the air-bag during transportation and assembly as well as to facilitate assembly.

Conclusion

20. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

21. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JOSELYNN Y. SLITERIS whose telephone number is (571)272-6675. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday, Tuesday & Thursday 8:30 am - 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley D. Morris can be reached on 571-272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Joselynn Y. Sliteris/
Examiner, Art Unit 3616
7/7/08

/Kevin Hurley/
Acting SPE of Art Unit 3616